

Message

From: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/10/2019 3:44:20 PM
To: Fife, Greg [fife.greg@epa.gov]
CC: Hubbard, Joseph [Hubbard.Joseph@epa.gov]; Coats, Janetta [coats.janetta@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Gert Town

The reporter had some follow-up questions:

Can you let me know what the levels of radiation were before the remediation?

Was this considered a reopening of a superfund site? If so, how was the community informed of the plan of action?

There were 6 total containers, right? How large were they?

Where is Waste Control Specialists located?

Can I see the plan of remediation and the removal action memo?

From: Fife, Greg
Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Gert Town

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Fife, Greg" <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Date: July 9, 2019 at 4:34:50 PM EDT
To: "Bokun, Lisa" <Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov>
Cc: "Coats, Janetta" <coats.janetta@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Gert Town

This is why I would say:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Woodruff, Emily" <ewoodruff@theadvocate.com>
Date: July 9, 2019 at 2:55:20 PM EDT
To: "fife.greg@epa.gov" <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Cc: "coats.janetta@epa.gov" <coats.janetta@epa.gov>
Subject: Gert Town

Hi Greg,

I'm a reporter for The Times Picayune | New Orleans Advocate. I am writing a story on Gert Town and the recent removal of radioactive materials in the neighborhood. Are you able to answer the following?

1. Where were the containers moved?

The material was disposed of at a proper facility, Waste Control Specialist. They are licensed to accept and dispose of the low level radioactive waste.

- 2.
3. How much soil was put into the containers

Each of the five containers had between 9 and 11 cubic yards of road base, pavement, and the contaminated soil layer. One container was never used.

4. Was there groundwater also removed?

No groundwater was impacted.

- 5.
6. I understand the area of concern was bigger than anticipated – about two and a half blocks, correct?

The original area was believed to be limited to be a 3 feet by 3 feet area. The City tried to address that but the follow up investigation found additional contamination. All limited to about the middle third of the 3400 block of Lowerline. There were a few discreet areas excavated, approximately 5'x5', 10'x20', and 20'x40' with some modifications during excavation.

It is not correct that the contamination went beyond that block of Lowerline.

7. Is the remediation over, or will it be monitored?

The cleanup is believed to be complete. EPA will return to conduct a scan on Lowerline to verify the cleanup is effective.

The readings showed that the contamination was removed. Since the boxes were removed, it allows the meters to read down to background.

- 8.
9. What are the radon levels now?

I'm assuming that this means Radium, not Radon. The Radiation has been reduced to near background levels.

10.

11. What did the test results of the material show?

The results showed radium and associated decay products such as lead and bismuth. The amount of the total radioactive material is not inconsistent with several possible tools or mechanisms used in the past.

12.

13. What are the theories on the source of contamination?

It is all theory and speculation. It appears that the contamination dates to the late 1940s or early 1950s.

14.

Thanks so much,

Emily Woodruff

Health Reporter

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